

POPE FRANCIS' GENERAL AUDIENCE: On How Faith Brings Salvation

'She was a woman discarded by the society. It is important to consider this condition — of being discarded — to understand her state of mind: she feels that Jesus can free her from the ailment and from the state of marginalization and indignity in which she has found herself for years. In a word: she knows, she feels that Jesus can save her.'

Rome, August 31, 2016 zenit.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

The Gospel we heard shows us a figure that stands out for her faith and courage. It is the woman that Jesus cured from her loss of blood (cf. *Matthew* 9:20-22). Passing in the midst of the crowd behind Jesus to touch the fringe of his garment, "she said to herself, 'If I only touch His garment, I shall be saved'" (v. 21). How much faith! How much faith this woman had! She reasons thus, because she is animated by much faith and much hope and, with a touch of shrewdness, she does what she has in her heart. The desire to be cured by Jesus is such, as to make her go beyond the prescriptions established by the Law of Moses. For many years, in fact, this poor woman was not simply ill but was regarded as impure because she was suffering from a hemorrhage (cf. *Leviticus* 15:19-30). Therefore, she is excluded from the liturgies, from conjugal life, and from normal relations with her neighbor. The evangelist Mark adds that she had consulted many doctors, spent all her means to pay them and endured painful cures, but she only got worse. She was a woman discarded by the society. It is important to consider this condition — of being discarded — to understand her state of mind: she feels that Jesus can free her from the ailment and from the state of marginalization and indignity in which she has found herself for years. In a word: she knows, she feels that Jesus can *save her*.

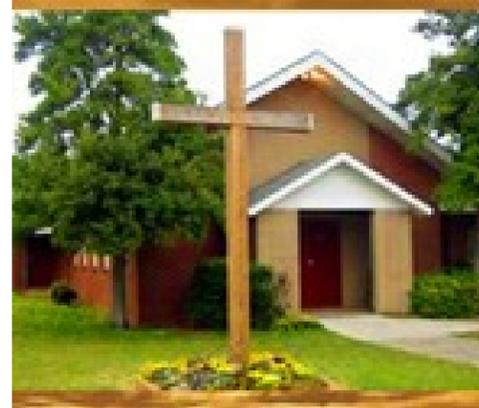
This case makes one reflect on how woman is often perceived and represented. We are all put on guard, including Christian communities, from views of femininity suffused with damaging prejudices and suspicions of her intangible dignity. In this connection, it is precisely the Gospels that restore the truth and leads back to a liberating point of view. Jesus admired the faith of this woman whom all avoided and transformed her hope in salvation. We do not know her name, but the few lines with which the Gospels describe her encounter with Jesus, delineate an itinerary of faith capable of re-establishing the truth and the grandeur of the dignity of every person. It is in the encounter with Christ that the way of liberation and salvation opens for all, men and women of every place and every time.

Matthew's Gospel says that when the woman touched Jesus' garment, He "turned" and "saw her" (v. 22), and then He addressed her. As we were saying, because of her state of exclusion, the woman acted in a hidden way, behind Jesus, she was a bit afraid, so as not to be seen, because she was a discarded one. Instead, Jesus sees her and His look is not one of reproach, He does not say: "Go away, you are a discarded one!" as if He said: "You are a leper, go away!" No, He does not reproach her but Jesus' look is one of mercy and tenderness. He knows what happened and seeks a personal encounter with her, which deep down the woman desired. This means that, not only does Jesus receive her but He regards her as worthy of such an encounter to the point of gifting her with His word and His attention.

In the central part of the account, the term *salvation* is repeated *three times*. "If I only touch His garment, I shall be *saved!*" Jesus turned around, saw her and said: "take heart, daughter, your faith has *saved you!*" And from that instant the woman was *saved*" (vv. 21-22). This "take heart, daughter" expresses all God's mercy for that person. — and for every discarded person. How many times we feel interiorly discarded because of our sins, we have committed so many, we have committed so many ... And the Lord says to us: "Take heart! Come! I do not consider you a discarded one. Take heart, daughter. You are a son, a daughter." And this is the moment of grace, it is the moment of forgiveness, it is the moment of inclusion in Jesus' life, in the life of the Church. It is the moment of mercy. Today to all of us, sinners, whether we are great or little sinners — but we all are <sinners> to all of us the Lord says: "Take heart, come! You are no longer discarded: I forgive you, I embrace you." Thus is God's mercy. We must have courage and go to Him, ask forgiveness for our sins and go forward — with courage, as this woman did. Then "salvation" assumes many connotations: first of all, it restores health to the woman; then it frees us from social and religious discriminations; in addition, it fulfils the hope that she bore in her heart, banishing her fears and discomfort. Finally, it restores her to the community, liberating her from the need to act in a hidden way. And this last thing is important: a discarded person always acts in a hidden way, sometimes or <during> his whole life: we think of the lepers of those times, of today's homeless ...; we think of sinners, of us sinners: we always do something in a hidden way; we have the need to do something in a hidden way, because we are ashamed of what we are ... And He frees us from this, Jesus frees us and makes us stand: "Arise, come, stand up!" As God has created us: God created us upright, not humiliated — upright. What Jesus gives is total salvation, which reintegrates the woman's life in the sphere of God's love and, at the same time, re-establishes her in her full dignity.

In the end, it is not the garment the woman touched that gave her salvation, but *the word of Jesus, received in faith*, capable of consoling her, healing her and re-establishing her in her relation with God and with her people. Jesus is the only source of blessing from which salvations flows for all men, and faith is the fundamental disposition to receive it. Once again Jesus, with His behavior full of mercy, indicates to the Church the course to follow to encounter every person, so that each one can be healed in body and spirit and recover the dignity of children of God.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



640 Edrie St. NE
Aiken, SC 29801
803 649-3203

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

Wisdom 9:13-18b(129C)

Responsorial:

Psalm 90:3-4,5-6.12-13,14,17

Second Reading:

Philemon 9:10,12-17

Gospel:

Luke 14:25-33

Today's Missal

Lectionary Readings for the week of September 4, 2016

Monday: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8;

Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11;

Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31;

Luke 6:20-26

Thursday: Micah 5:1-4a;

Romans 8:28-30

Friday: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22b-27;

Luke 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22;

Luke 6:43-49

The Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 4, 2016

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

Vision Statement

*Anchored by faith hope and love in Jesus Christ,
we strive to be active disciples, serving each
other and all God's people by welcoming and
embracing the enriching diversity of our community of faith.*

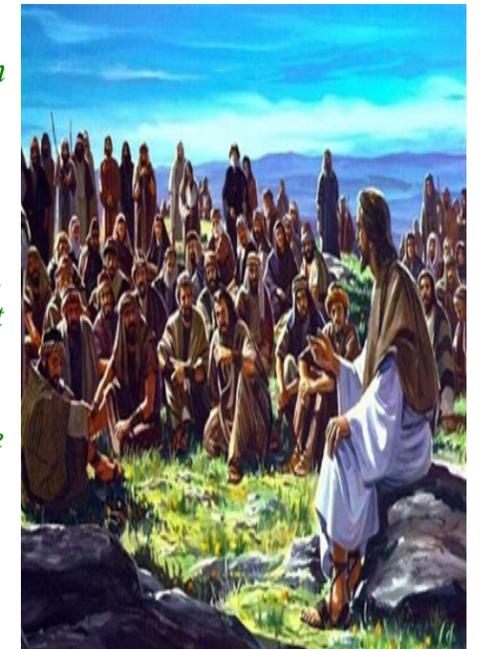
Father Emmanuel Andinam: Administrator

*Great crowds accompanied him
on his way and he turned and
spoke to them.*

*'Anyone who comes to me
without hating father, mother,
wife, children, brothers, sisters,
yes and his own life too, cannot
be my disciple.*

*No one who does not carry his
cross and come after me can be
my disciple.*

Luke 14:25-27



Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM,

First Friday Benediction after Mass

Weekend Saturday 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Confessions: after weekday Masses and by Appointment

Office Hours: 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM Tuesday - Thursday

Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 AM resuming in the fall, **CCD:** Sundays TBD during school year,

RCIA: Tuesdays 10:00 AM restarting in the fall

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Funerals: By Appointment, Contact the office.

Contact Us: Phone 803 649-3203, **E-Mail** stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net

Facebook @stgerardaiken, **Emergency number for Father 803 341-5933**



Pray for our sick:
 Judy Riley
 Gary Gilbault
 Marge Glauser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Lena Mickens
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda and Ike
 Lignons
 Joe Fulmer
 Chuck Simkin
 Joe Begic

When we turn over our lives to become disciples of Jesus, we trust that our needs will be met, our sacrifices worthwhile. This first step can be very difficult. We need to remember it is God whom we can trust. And God will not be outdone by our generosity.



Pastoral Council:
 Wayman Johnson,
 Chairman
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Nancy Durden
 Marge Glauser
 Joan Hesik
 Janet Menefee
 Gregory Wright

Finance Council:
 Robert Erikson,
 Chairman
 Leon Gagnon and
 Anna Marie Key,
 Auditors
 Lisa Solenberger,
 Secretary
 Art Wagner

Mass Intentions
 4:00 PM Mass is said for your own personal intentions,
 7:00 AM Mass is said for Fr. Thaddues Chaplin at
 Eisenhower Army Hospital: From L. Yanak. 11:00 AM Mass
 said for Gary and Marge for health & strength..

Weekend Offering
 August 27-28 2016
 Collection \$1,939.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Short \$673.00
 Attendance 120
 Stewardship a way of life

The Gathering Hymn 31 M
We Gather Together
The Offertory Hymn is 726 H
Lift High the Cross
The Communion Hymn is CHOIR 622 H
The Summons
Our Song of Praise is 24 M
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



Lay Ministers

	Saturday September 10	Sunday September 11	Sunday September 11
Lector:	Joan Hesik	Denise Gelinias	Sheila Wagner
E E Ministers:	Ellen Heim	Roger Gelinias	Mary Rose
	Saturday September 17	Sunday September 18	Sunday September 18
Lector:	David Didimamoff	Mary Kay L'Esperance	Lisa Solenberger
E E Ministers:	Mary Rose	Gerard L'Esperance	Mike Solenberger

Refreshments September 4	Refreshments September 11	Refreshments September 18
Jackie Cobb/Rosa Johnson	Sheila Wagner/Matt Fitzpatrick	Shirley Paige/Anna Marie Key



Next week we have Arya Jade Lignons receiving Baptism: Father James Lignons, Mother Tiefertany Lignons God Parents Angel and Donna Lignons and Ronell Kendall

This week we are taking a second collection for Fr. Anthony's 40th Anniversary Gift.

The Legion of Mary schedule is flexible. If you want to know if they are meeting at 1:30 on any Friday call the office on Thursday and we can tell you. Please continue to pray the Rosary.

Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Tuesdays at the 8:15 Mass



We need the support of all St Gerard parishioners to make this a successful event. VENDORS, volunteers, raffle items/baskets, books and items for a silent auction are still needed.

Showcase and sell your creations. Clean out your house of items no longer wanted and sell them at the fall festival. Spread the word to family and friends. All spots are free to St Gerard parishioners. We ask for at least 10% donation from your sales. You may bring your own tent and set up at one of the outside spots; however, we have one shelter rented for this event with power, water, grill and eleven picnic tables. For business vendors the spots are \$50.00 for a 14 ft. X 14 ft. spot. Bake sale, book sales, raffles and silent auction will be held inside the Weeks Center in room #4.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP

Volunteer Corner:
 Thank you to the fall festival committee especially Veronica Andreassen-Barker

America needs Fatima rosary rally is on 15 October this year. Please mark it in your calendar. We had a small group show up last year. The prior year we had a large group. More info will be coming.

We are in process of completing the list of all our parishioners. If you happen not to have our weekly envelopes or didn't fill our registration form that was passed out some weeks ago, chances are that we don't have your contact information. Fr. Emmanuel would like to be able to communicate with every member and share information with every family and individual directly. If you have not provided contact information before, please pick up an index card in the rear of the church and put your contact information on it (name and address). Then put it in the collection basket at offertory or after Mass. Thank you very much.

Please Volunteer Remember Time, Talent and Treasure

If you attend St. Gerard on a regular basis and feel welcome, Why not consider becoming a member. We would love to have you. Feel free to talk to a member or call the office 649-3203. Registration forms are in the the church hall lobby.

When we get closer to the date of the Fall Festival we will need bake goods for the bake sale.

Attention Parents CCD classes will begin next week on September 11 at 10:00 AM Contact Jeanette Coleman or the office.

St. Mary Help of Christians in Aiken, SC will welcome Gloria Purvis to speak on being bold advocates of the faith and active participants in conversations around faith-based issues. Gloria is co-host of EWTN's morning radio program Morning Glory which is heard around the country, and is a passionate witness who has had several religious experiences, one of which prompted her conversion while in middle school. The talk will take place on Saturday, September 24 at 6:30 PM in St. Angela Hall on the school campus, 118 York St. SE, Aiken, 29801. There is no charge and child care will be available. For more information, contact St. Mary's at 803-642-2676 All ages are welcome and everyone will be inspired and encouraged by Gloria's timely message.

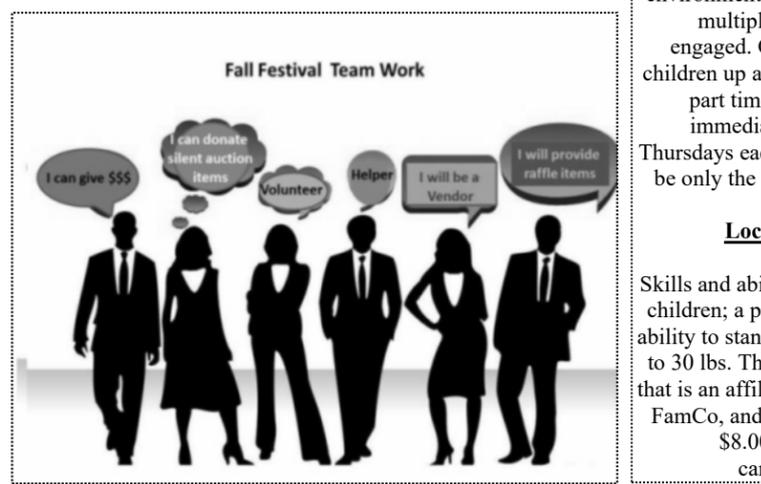
Show your thanks for all your blessings by giving back. ACTS is in desperate need of volunteers to serve in our Resale Store and Client Room assisting clients with their clothing vouchers. Shifts are available Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Commit to as few or as many hours and/or days as fit your schedule. It's not only rewarding but fun, as well! Just e-mail usatvolunteer@actsofaiken.org, or call 803.649.3800 for more information.

Emergency Assistance Caseworker, Receptionist, and Voicemail Person Food Pantry Helper on Monday during the summer If interested please contact Deondra Roper, Volunteer Coordinator at 803.857.6053



Wanted: New items that would be useful for the silent auction. Last year that was our big profit item.

Childcare Worker Position Opening
 The individual selected will provide care and supervision for children in a daycare-type environment. Lead games and activities for multiple children, keeping them engaged. Change diapers and/or clean children up after activities. The opening is a part time position and is available immediately. It is the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month (except Nov-Dec will be only the 2nd Thurs); 5:45 pm-8:15 pm (2.5 hrs per day).



Location is Hope Center Graniteville, SC.
 Skills and abilities required: experience with children; a positive, friendly demeanor and ability to stand, kneel, bend, stoop and lift up to 30 lbs. This position supports a program that is an affiliation of ACTS, Christ Central, FamCo, and HUGS, LLC. Beginning pay \$8.00/hr. Submit resume to carla@actsofaiken.org.

OLV

BINGO
 Columbus Club Hall Every Monday at 7:10 PM till 9:00 PM
 5 Cards \$ 10.00
 Each Additional Card \$2.00
 15 Regular Games \$20 Payout
 1 Coverall Jackpot \$150 Payout